

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In response to the Office Action mailed January 26, 2006, Applicants amend their application and request reconsideration. In this Amendment claims 17-20 are cancelled and claims 21 and 22 are added so that claims 1-16, 21, and 22 are now pending.

The drawings were objected to as not showing embodiments of the invention falling within the scope of claims 11, 12, and 17-20. The objection is moot. Claims 17-20 are cancelled and claims 11 and 12 have been amended in a way that overcomes the drawing objection.

Claims 5, 6, 8, and 10 are allowed. Claims 5 and 6 are amended in a way similar to one of the amendments of claims 1 and 2. The invention is applicable to semiconductor lasers that produce light at one wavelength or at two distinct wavelengths, for example at 660 nm and 780 nm. See the specification from page 14, line 10 through page 15, line 16. An important advantage of the invention is the ability to provide a single reflective film with the desired low reflectance characteristics at both of two oscillation wavelengths. The allowed claims, and other claims, are amended merely to make clear that the invention is not limited to a semiconductor laser emitting light only at a single wavelength. Moreover, as described at page 15 of the patent application, the same film may be used on each of two semiconductor lasers emitting light at different wavelengths.

Claims 11-16 were only objected to, subject to the drawing object concerning claims 11 and 12. Amendment has overcome that objection, therefore, those claims need no further comment.

Claims 1, 3, 17, and 19 were rejected as anticipated by Okada et al. (U.S. Patent 6,623,689, hereinafter Okada) and claims 2, 4, 7, 9, 18, and 20 were rejected as obvious over Okada considered by itself.

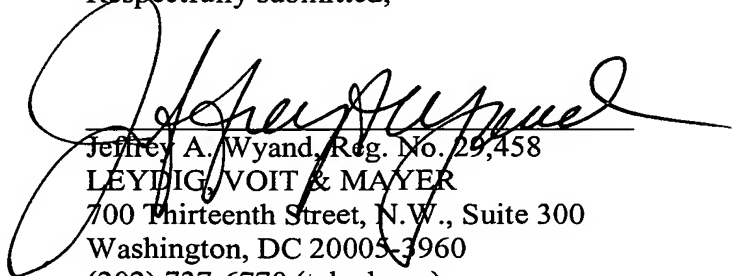
These rejections are respectfully traversed.

In this Amendment the rejected independent claims 1 and 2 are amended to make clear that the present patent application pertains to a low reflectivity multilayer dielectric film. The range of reflectivity, 3% to 15%, is expressly stated in claims 1 and 2. That

added limitation is supported by the present patent application at page 13, lines 12-14. Specific examples of reflectivities of films described in the patent application are, for example, 7% at the oscillation wavelength. Newly added claims 21 and 22 specify that the first dielectric film is in contact with the optical exit face of the semiconductor laser chip. These newly added claims are clearly supported, for example, by Figure 1 of the patent application and the corresponding description in page 8, line 21 through page 9, line 2.

In rejecting claims based upon Okada, attention was directed to Figure 6 of Okada which illustrates a high reflectivity film including five layers. It is apparent that what the Examiner considers to be the first dielectric film of claims 1 and 2 is layer 24 of Okada, a layer not in contact with the exit face of the semiconductor laser device 20 of Okada. Further, the multilayer film described in Okada with respect to Figure 6 is a high reflectivity end face film 22 having a reflectivity in a range of 75 to 85%. See Okada at column 7, lines 35-37. Clearly, Okada cannot anticipate any of the previously rejected claims, as now pending, nor suggest the structures of any pending claim. Accordingly, upon reconsideration, the rejections should be withdrawn and all of the claims now pending allowed.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: April 26, 2006
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